



PHIL BOYER

President

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

Phil Boyer became president of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) on January 1, 1991, capping an outstanding career as a senior-level broadcasting executive and general aviation advocate. He is a 6,500-hour instrument- and multiengine-rated pilot who has been flying for more than 30 years, 15 as an aircraft owner.

As AOPA president, Phil Boyer leads the largest and one of the most influential civil aviation organizations in the world. During his presidency, AOPA membership has grown by more than 25%. More than 380,000 pilots – more than two-thirds of all U.S.-certificated pilots – are AOPA members.

Under Boyer's leadership, AOPA played a major role in the long struggle to bring balance and reason into the unbridled tort law process that nearly killed the piston-engine aircraft industry in the 1980s. Liability suits targeted manufacturers – presumably the deepest pockets – on flimsy evidence, driving many out of business. The lack of new aircraft and dwindling supplies of parts to maintain the aging fleet made survival of the industry as important to pilots and aircraft owners as to the manufacturers themselves. Hence AOPA's strong advocacy, which proved vital to congressional passage, in 1994, of the General Aviation Revitalization Act. The act's 18-year statute of limitations and other provisions served to reinvigorate general aviation.

Phil Boyer's vision and leadership placed AOPA at the forefront of another long but successful campaign, in persuading the Federal Aviation Administration that the Global Positioning System – satellite-based navigation – should be endorsed, developed and certified for use in general aviation flight operations. As a result of persistent advocacy by AOPA, GPS is now a principal element in advanced air navigation. The rapid spread of GPS use in general aviation airplanes inspired its adoption into many other fields – mapping, surveying, exploration of uncharted areas, construction site location and others, including GPS map guidance in the family automobile.

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Boyer's management expertise, honed by over two decades in major corporate executive positions, has enabled AOPA to keep member dues at a modest \$39 per year for the past ten years. During Boyer's tenure, AOPA has earned the distinction of being among the top 100 U.S. associations.

Before taking the left seat at AOPA, Boyer was Senior Vice President/Development for Capital Cities/ABC Video Enterprises, Inc. where he explored new business opportunities in communications technologies and coordinated ABC's international business activities. He also created ABC's "Wide World of Flying," a quarterly subscription-based video magazine.

Among several top executive posts at ABC, Boyer held vice president and general manager positions at flagship ABC television stations WABC-TV New York and WLS-TV Chicago.

The recipient of numerous broadcasting awards, Boyer has served as president of a major broadcasters association. In aviation, he was chapter president of the American Bonanza Society and president of the Sacramento Valley Pilots Association. Boyer even has been honored by the Federal Aviation Administration for guiding a fellow pilot who was in distress to a safe landing. He has also flown the Atlantic twice as pilot-in-command of a general aviation aircraft.

In 1992, Boyer was elected president of the International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations, which represents 56 national AOPA organizations with more than 420,000 pilot members around the world.

With his unique background in aviation, communications, associations and business management, Phil Boyer leads AOPA in its mission of service to America's 645,000 pilots and aircraft owners and to the entire general aviation community.